

Remarks

In the restriction requirement of August 8, 2008, the Office identified seven groups of inventions based on the claims on record, namely:

Group I, claim(s) 1-3 and 15-17, drawn to peptides of the AT₁ receptor.

Group II, claim(s) 4-5, drawn to antibodies.

Group III, claim(s) 6-11, drawn to method of screening/producing agents for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes using the human AT₁ receptor.

Group IV, claim(s) 12, drawn to method for the binding and elimination of autoantibodies in body fluids.

Group V, claim(s) 13, drawn to a method for immunizing with a peptide.

Group VI, claim(s) 14, drawn to immunizing with an antibody.

Group VII, claim(s) 18, drawn to method for detecting anti- AT₁ receptor antibodies.

Group VII claim(s) 19, drawn to a method for producing therapeutic agents using peptides of the AT₁ receptor.

In response to the restriction requirement of August 8, 2008, applicants elect group III, which encompasses original claims 6 to 11 and new claims 20 to 26.

Applicants have cancelled original claims 6 to 11. Thus, new claims 20 to 26 are presented for further prosecution in accordance with applicants' election. In this context, the Office's attention is directed to original claims 9 and 10.

As a species, applicants elect SEQ ID NO: 1. Applicants respectfully request that the Office considers, after having searched SEQ ID NO: 1, searching SEQ ID NO: 5 next.

Support for new claim 20 can be found, e.g., in original claims 9 and 10 and, among others, on page 3, second and third full paragraph, page 5 as well as the fifth full paragraph.

Support for new claim 21 can be found, e.g., on page 4, last full paragraph and in original claim 9.

Support for new claims 22 and 23 can be found, e.g., on page 3, third full paragraph, page 4, last full paragraph and claim 9 (see claim 3 for wording).

Support for new claim 24 can be found, e.g., on page 4, first and last full paragraph and claim 10.

Support for new claim 25 can be found, e.g., on page 6, third full paragraph.

Support for new claim 26 can be found, e.g., on page 6, fifth full paragraph.

The Office is urged to contact the undersigned at the number provided below to resolve any outstanding issues that might surface in the context of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit undersign's deposit account 50-3135 for any payments that may become due with this response.

Respectfully submitted,

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Monday, November 10, 2008